



PRESS RELEASE

Baker-Polito Administration Announces Agricultural Clean Energy Projects to Save Money and Reduce Emissions

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Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources

MEDIA CONTACT

Katie Gronendyke



Phone

617-626-1129



Online

katie.gronendyke@state.ma.us

BOSTON — The Baker-Polito Administration today awarded 38 grants totaling \$908,259 to Massachusetts farmers to implement renewable energy systems and improve energy efficiency on farms. The farms receiving funding are projected to save farmers over \$200,000 annually and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by over 660 tons each year. The grants are funded through the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources’ (MDAR) [Agricultural Energy Grant Program](#) (AgEnergy) in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER).

“Massachusetts continues to lead the nation in clean energy, and these grants will provide our farmers with the opportunity to continue adopting clean energy technologies,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “Their ensuing savings from the clean energy projects can easily be reinvested into farms across the Commonwealth and eventually lead to even better products for consumers.”

“The Agricultural Energy Grant Program is an important tool to ensure that our agricultural partners have the tools they need to lower their energy costs, usage, and emissions,” **said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito**.

The grants are part of two agricultural energy programs, namely Traditional and Special Projects. Traditional projects focus on conventional energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. Special Projects focus on technologies that typically require higher capital cost but could potentially yield greater savings and/or positive agricultural impacts in an effort to improve the farm’s energy efficiency and to facilitate adoption of less conventional, alternative clean energy technology applications.

“By working together across agencies, these grants contribute to the Baker-Polito Administration’s commitment to protecting our Commonwealth’s natural resources and supporting our clean, renewable energy,” **said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton**. “The clean energy technologies funded by these grants will help Massachusetts meet our ambitious Global Warming Solutions Act emissions reductions target and create a clean, sustainable environment for our farmers.”

This year’s AgEnergy Program will fund twenty-nine (29) projects, a combination of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects including over twenty roof- and ground-mounted photovoltaic systems for a variety of farm sector operations including vegetable & fruit, cow dairy cheese-making, vegetable & horticultural, year-round greenhouses, cut flowers, livestock, aquaculture, malting, and vineyard operations.

The awarded projects are:

Farm Name	Municipality	Project	Award
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Robinson Farm	Hardwick	15 kW PV System	\$30,000
Red Shirt Farm	Lanesboro	9.75 kW PV System	\$26,000
Hearthside Sugar House	Shelburne Falls	RO & Preheater	\$3,939
Winter Rock Farm	Chesterfield	Evaporator	\$5,000
Rocky Maple Bogs	West Wareham	7.67 kW PV System	\$10,000
Dick's Market Garden	Lunenburg	18 kW PV System	\$21,105
Cape Cod Oyster Company, Inc.	Marstons Mills	56.7 kW PV System	\$30,000
Shinglebrook Farm	Shelburne	Heat Pads for Piglets	\$1,500
Atlas Farm	Deerfield	65 kW PV System	\$30,000
Shaw Farm Dairy, Inc.	Dracut	390 kW Ground Mount PV System	\$30,000
PJ Cranberries	East Sandwich	6.6 kW PV System	\$15,000
Baile an Chotaigh Farm	Westminster	HE Evaporator	\$9,213
Mountain View Farms, LLC	Easthampton	37.8 kW PV System	\$30,000
Fresh Meadow Farm	Carver	24.9 kW PV System	\$25,000
Broken Creek Vineyard	Shrewsbury	13.745 kW PV System	\$30,000
Valley Malt, LLC	Hadley	15 kW PV System; Variable Freq.	\$22,100

		Drives	
The Farmer's Garden	Rehoboth	HE Greenhouse Furnace	\$30,000
Hunt Road Berry Farm	West Brookfield	7.425 kW PV	\$10,000
Hardwick Sugar Shack	Hardwick	RO Membrane Replacement & Upgrade	\$5,800
Foxbard Farm, LLC	Shelburne	27.35 kW PV System	\$30,000
Flat Rock Farm	Chesterfield	4.48 kW PV System	\$12,500
Fivefork Farms, LLC	Upton	24.84 kW PV System	\$30,000
Meadowbrook Orchards	Sterling	20.48 kW PV System	\$20,000
M. Huberman, Inc.	Saugus	Re-glazing Greenhouse Glass	\$25,000
Square Roots Farm	Lanesboro	12.88 kW PV System	\$20,000
Sweet Meadow Farm/Five College Farm	Hadley	448.5 kW PV System	\$30,000
Holiday Farm	Berlin	10.7 kW PV System	\$15,000
Horseshoe Farm	Warwick	12.43 kW Ground Mounted PV System	\$15,000
Wilder Hill Gardens	Conway	5.89 kW PV System	\$15,000

“The collaboration between MDAR and DOER on the Ag Energy grant program continues to help farmers throughout the Commonwealth maximize the environmental and economic benefits of improving energy efficiency on their farms,” **said Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner John Lebeaux**. “Installing clean energy projects can ensure long term farm viability by reducing energy costs while also helping to protect the environment.”

“The Department of Energy Resources is pleased to help fund these clean energy and energy efficiency projects at farms and agricultural operations,” **said Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Judith Judson**. “These projects will strengthen their ability to control energy costs, reduce emissions, and make their operations more resilient.”

This year’s Special Projects Program, now in its second year, will fund nine (9) projects, including for the first time two co-location solar PV projects. This technology emphasizes optimization of both farm land use for crops, grazing, etc. and energy generation, whereby solar PV panels are mounted high and spread apart enough to allow for adequate sunlight penetration for continuous crop production and human labor and farm equipment usage beneath the panels. One project will be for a vegetable farm operation; the other a creative use of co-location to support a fresh water raceway and tank production aquaculture system. Other Special Projects include zero net energy structures and centralized walk-in coolers/freezers.

The awarded projects are:

Farm Name	Municipality	Project	Award
Blue Stream Aquaculture, LLC	West Barnstable	Solar PV Canopies	\$ 85,000
Drumlin Farm c/o Mass Audubon	Lincoln	Walk-in Cooler	\$ 25,000
Knowlton Farm Nominee Trust	Grafton	88 kW Co-Location PV solar canopy	\$100,000
Foxbard Farm LLC	Shelburne	Walk-in Cooler	\$15,000
Just-A-Mere Tree Farm	Worthington	Net Zero Maple Kitchen	\$ 40,000

Hunt Road Berry Farm	West Brookfield	Walk-in Cooler	\$8,562
University of Massachusetts	Lowell	Net Zero GH Solar Powered Lighting & Power Controls	\$7,540
Fivefork Farms, LLC	Upton	Walk-in Cooler	\$25,000 25,000
F.W. Schumacher Co., Inc.	East Sandwich	HE Walk-in Refrigeration with Building	\$ 25,000

The Agricultural Energy Grant Program is one of several within MDAR’s Division of Agricultural Conservation and Technical Assistance (DACTA). The Division’s mission is to provide technical assistance, training, conservation, and funding to promote economically viable and environmentally sound agricultural practices in Massachusetts.

“The Agricultural Energy Grant Program supports two goals of the Senate, reducing carbon emissions to build a renewable energy future and supporting our family farms, especially in Western Massachusetts,” **said Senate President Stan Rosenberg (D-Amherst)**. “These grants will help our farmers save money on energy costs and allow them to invest these savings in their farming operations.”

“Congratulations to Robinson Farm, Hunt Road Berry Farm, and Hardwick Sugar Shack on being selected for these grant awards,” **said State Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer), Senate Chair of the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture**. “The Ag-Energy grant program has done a phenomenal job in supporting small farmers, while working to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, making for a better Commonwealth.”

“Massachusetts continues to be a leader in promoting and supporting renewable energy, and I applaud the Baker-Polito Administration for their commitment to ensuring that our farmers benefit from this movement,” **said State Representative Donald Berthiaume (R-Spencer)**. “Ag Energy projects make our farms more viable, environmentally sound and can help offset the cost of production, therefore allowing farmers to keep more of their well-earned profits.”

With today’s announcement, both programs have now awarded grants to 240 projects statewide since 2009, providing growers and producers with more than \$3.8 million to address energy issues on their farms.

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Media Contact

Katie Gronendyke



Phone

617-626-1129

Online

katie.gronendyke@state.ma.us

[Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs →](#)

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs seeks to protect, preserve, and enhance the Commonwealth's environmental resources while ensuring a clean energy future for the state's residents. Through the stewardship of open space, protection of environmental resources, and enhancement of clean energy, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs works tirelessly to make Massachusetts a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

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